

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 091546Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5453

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13112

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CY, UK

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTION

REF: STATE 218670; NICOSIA 2248

1. ON NOVEMBER 8 WE GAVE FCO'S GOODISON GIST OF DEPARTMENT'S AND NICOSIA'S THINKING ABOUT REPLACEMENT OF UNFICYP CONTINGENTS DRAWN OFF FOR UNEF. WE POINTED TO FINANCIAL SAVINGS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM SMALLER NUMBER OF AUSTRIAN, IRISH AND FINNISH REPLACEMENTS, AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF OFFICER AS OPPOSED TO OFFICER-AND-MEN CONTINGENTS FOR OBSERVATION PURPOSES, RECOGNIZING THAT OBSERVATION HAD BECOME DE FACTO FUNCTION OF UNFICYP OVER THE YEARS.

2. GOODISON SAID BRITISH ARE CONCERNED AT ABSENCE NON-NATO CONTINGENTS. BRITISH WOULD WELCOME SAVINGS IN UK CONTRIBUTION ASSOCIATED WITH LESSER NUMBERS OF FORCE. HOWEVER, HMG HAS NOT AGREED TO ANY CHANGE IN FUNCTION OF UNFICYP (THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT TO
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MINISTERS). HE TOOK UNDER ADVISEMENT US PREFERENCE FOR

REPLACEMENT BY SMALLER CONTINGENTS MADE UP ONLY OF OFFICERS, BUT SAID BRITISH FAVOR REPLACEMENT UP TO LEVELS PROPOSED IN PHASE I AND II UN CUTS. BRITISH HAVE MADE OWN PHASE I CUTS AND FAVOR CONTINUING AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED WITH PHASE II CUTS.

3. AS WE WERE LEAVING GOODISON INFORMED US HE HAD JUST RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM NEW YORK STATING AUSTRIAN AND FINNISH CONTINGENTS BEING REPLACED UP TO PHASE I LEVEL, BUT IRISH CONTINGENT NOT BEING REPLACED. (SEE ALSO NICOSIA 2279.)

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT SENSED, BRITISH ARE NOT LIKELY TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES QUICKLY WITH OUR IDEAS OF LEAP-FROGGING BEYOND PHASE II PROJECTED CUTS ON WAY TO OBSERVER FORCE. FCO OFFICIAL LEVEL REPRESENTED BY GOODISON IS WELL AWARE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND, BUT PREFERS TO USE STALLING TACTICS IN CONNECTION WITH "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" PRESENTED BY CUTS DUE TO UNEF. IF IRISH CONTINGENT IS NOT TO BE REPLACED, CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS WILL ACCRUE SIMPLY BY OUR RESISTING ANY NEW TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFICYP. AT SUCH TIME IN FUTURE THAT USG PREPARES FORMAL CASE FOR TRANSFORMING FUNCTION (NOT NECESSARILY "MANDATE") OF UNFICYP FORCES TO OBSERVERS, FCO OFFICIAL LEVEL WOULD BE FORCED TO PUT MATTER TO MINISTERS. AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL THERE WOULD BE GOOD CHANCE THAT HMG DESIRE NOT TO OPPOSE USG, AND ALSO TO EFFECT FINANCIAL SAVINGS OF ITS OWN, MIGHT DICTATE HMG DECISION TO SUPPORT OUR PROPOSAL.

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